

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.

## PROCTERS OF PROCTER COTE EXTWISTLE.

The Procters of Procter Cote had long been a prominent family in the township of Extwistle. Their ancestral farmhouse, known as Procter Cote, stood proudly near Lee Green, a testament to their enduring presence in the area for over two centuries. Nicholas Procter, the last known member of the family to reside there, was a venerable old man whose memory lingered in the minds of many.

In the years leading up to the fateful Scotch Rebellion of 1715, one of the Procter ancestors, William Procter, held strong Jacobite sympathies. Fueled by his allegiance to the exiled Stuart dynasty, he ventured forth to meet the arriving rebels at Preston. As he made his way through the picturesque village of Whalley, fate intervened in the form of a division of the Royal Army. General Carpenter, commanding a contingent of dragoons, crossed the countryside from Clitheroe to Preston, intercepting William Procter along the road. Fearing arrest and the consequences that would follow, William quickly abandoned his Jacobite leanings and assimilated into the multitude of regular citizens. With a heavy heart, he watched as the Royalist forces made a bold charge up the main street of Preston.

From his vantage point, William managed to avoid the dangers that swirled around him and observed the Rebel leaders, including the noble Lords Derwentwater and Kenmure, being marched down the street as prisoners. The sight etched itself into his memory, a vivid reminder of the perils of political fervor and the fragility of rebellious aspirations.

Returning home to Procter Cote, William could not help but recount his harrowing experience at Preston. Gathering family and friends around him, he regaled them with tales of the charged atmosphere, the clash of ideologies, and the poignant scenes he witnessed. Among his favorite recitals was the singing of the old ballad "Mackintosh and Mar are coming," a rousing ode to the Earl of Mar's raising of the Pretender's standard at Braemar in the Highlands.

As the years passed, the Procter lineage continued its course, adapting to changing times and the shifting currents of history. Eventually, Nicholas Procter, the last known resident of Procter Cote, made the difficult decision to leave the ancestral home behind. Seeking new opportunities and a different way of life, he moved to Burnley Lane Head, bidding farewell to the farmstead that had borne his family's name for generations.

Yet, even as Procter Cote stood silent and empty, its walls whispered tales of the Procter family's unwavering loyalty, their encounters with history, and the echoes of a bygone era. And while their physical presence might have faded, the spirit of the Procters lived on, intertwined with the fabric of Extwistle and forever etched into the annals of local lore.

By Donald Jay